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November 3, 2005

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 300-06-4

SUBJECT: LTP – EQIP – 2006 PROGRAM

Purpose. To provide the 2006 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) score sheet and request Local Work Group (LWG) results.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2006.

This bulletin provides the 2006 EQIP scoring worksheet, scoring instructions, and the 2006 EQIP Local Work Group development sheet.

Many offices have already provided their LWG development worksheets and prioritized scoring sheets to the state office. No further action is required from these offices, unless they want to edit their submittals based on the 2006 changes. The state office will transfer the data to the 2006 versions of these documents.

All other offices should use the attached files to complete and submit their LWG results and their prioritized score sheet. Submit these files electronically through your Area Office by November 10. Area offices will forward electronically to Sid Cornelius for review and posting to the web site.

The 2006 score sheet reflects 2 corrections to Factor B1, adding 328b as a scoring practice for 6 points and changing Closure of Abandoned Waste Facilities from practice code 709 to code 360. Under Factor C, 1 point may be scored for any practice that meets the pollinator habitat guidelines as specified in the Wildlife Guide Sheets in the eFOTG..

Several scoring suggestions were received from the areas and field. Many of the suggestions could be addressed by utilizing the Local Concerns, Factor I. For example under Factor I, an office may emphasize any individual practice, even if it has already scored points under a different factor, simply by listing the practice code and the additional points it will receive to emphasize the LWG priorities. Likewise, offices looking to prioritize severe gully erosion could add a statement, "Applications addressing gully erosion exceeding 50 tons receive an additional 6 points." EQIP scoring must not show a bias to any size or class of operation.

Offices also have the discretion to target their EQIP allocations. For example, an office could target 50 percent (or a designated dollar amount) of its allocation to forestry practices. Applications meeting the target criteria complete against the other applications in the target group. Such targeted allocations must be explicitly detailed in the LWG worksheet, including an explanation of how applications will be categorized in respect to the target. Offices will need to create a local sub-account in ProTracts to track the funds. Offices should contact their area offices for assistance on creating the local sub-account.

Questions should be directed to your ASTC(FO) or from the area level to Tim Koehler, Assistant State Conservationist.

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

Attachment

DIST: ASTC (FO)
FO
ARC
EQIP State Office Team